

Appl. No. 09/787,853
Atty. Docket No. 7713
Amtd. dated 06/06/2003
Reply to Office Action of 11/18/02

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8 remain in the case.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the mean particle diameter, standard deviation, circularity and aspect ratio of the particles which comprise the composition. Basis is found at page 10, second and third full paragraphs and page 11, fourth full paragraph. Claim 5 has been amended to remove a transcribing error. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from Claim 5. Claim 7 has been amended to depend from Claim 6. It is submitted that all amendments are fully supported and entry is requested.

Objections/Rejections Under 35 USC 112

The objections/rejections of Claims 5, 6 and 7 for formal reasons have been overcome by the amendments presented herein. Withdrawal of said objections/rejections is requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC 102/103

Claims 1-8 stand rejected over U.S. 5,482,646, for reasons of record at page 3 of the Office Action. Claims 1-8 also stand rejected over U.S. 5,583,098, for reasons of record at page 4 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections.

The present invention addresses the solubility problems of granular detergents, described as "clumping" and "lump-gel" formation at pages 1-2 in the specification. Different from the cited art, Applicants have addressed this problem by carefully controlling the particle size, circularity and aspect ratio of the particles which comprise their compositions.

It is submitted that, while the cited art does address the problem of detergent solubility, it does so using entirely different means than the present invention.

U.S. 5,482,646 employs an adherent coating of a particulate anionic on detergent granules to reduce undissolved residue. (ABSTRACT)

U.S. 5,583,098 employs citrate of a defined particle size (Col. 2, l. 13) which is different from the size of the base powder (Col. 5, l. 25) to improve the delivery and dissolution characteristics of the compositions. (ABSTRACT)

In short, it is submitted that the cited references both take a chemical path to solving the dissolution problem. In sharp contrast, Applicants herein have addressed the size and geometry parameters of the particles to solve the problem. Clearly, the references neither teach nor suggest the present invention in the sense of either 102 or 103. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested.

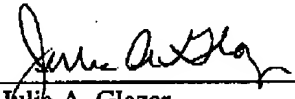
In light of the foregoing, early and favorable action on all claims is requested.

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SUMMARY

This document is responsive to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (Voluntary Revised Practice). Applicants have resubmitted the claim amendments to add status identifiers to each claim. Applicants respectfully request that the Amendment be entered. Applicants further request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the claim objections and rejections and allow the claims remaining in the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,
FOR: MORT III et al.,

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